AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-24 (Canceled)

25. (original) A method of making an elongated catheter shaft having at least a first and second layer, and a co-tapered section in which the first layer tapers to a smaller wall thickness and the second layer tapers inversely to the taper of the first layer comprising

a) extruding the first layer from an extruder having a first gear pump at an output end thereof and co-extruding the second layer with the first layer from a second extruder having a second gear pump at an output end thereof, and forming the co-tapered section of the shaft by reversing the rotation of the first gear pump to at least in part form the taper in the first layer; and

b) increasing the speed of the second gear pump from a first speed to a second speed to form the inverse taper in the second layer.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 25 including, after ~~(ii)~~ (b), forming a distal section of the shaft adjacent to the co-tapered section by decreasing the speed of the second gear pump from the second speed to a third speed greater than the first speed of the second gear pump and less than the second speed of the second gear pump.

27. (original) The method of claim 25 wherein the shaft has a proximal section and distal section on either end of the co-tapered section having different relative proportions of the first and second layers therein, and including forming the distal section by changing the rotation of the first gear pump from the reversed rotation to a forward rotation and setting the speed of the first gear pump at a second speed less than a first speed of the first gear pump used to form the proximal section.

28. (original) The method of claim 27 wherein the co-tapered section has a length of about 13 cm to about 25 cm, and forming the distal section of the shaft includes decreasing the speed of the second gear pump from the second speed to a third speed.

29. (original) The method of claim 27 wherein forming the co-tapered section of the shaft includes decreasing a speed of the first gear pump from the first speed to a third speed.

30. (original) A method of making an elongated catheter shaft having at least a first and second layer, and a section in which the first layer tapers distally to a smaller wall thickness, comprising extruding the first layer from an extruder having a first gear pump at an output end thereof and co-extruding the second layer with the first layer from a second extruder, and forming the section of the shaft by reversing the rotation of the first gear pump to at least in part form the taper in the first layer.

31. (new) The method of claim 25 wherein the extruder is part of an extrusion apparatus having tip with a tapered section between a uniform diameter section and a die-end section, a die with the die-end section of the tip therein from a polymer-receiving end

of the die to an opposite output end of the die to form the catheter shaft as a tubular extrudate, and an extended flow divider at a location which receives a first layer polymeric material and a second layer polymeric material from the gear pumps, and which separates the flow of the first layer polymeric material from the second layer polymeric material upstream of the die, and which extends to an end of the tapered section of the tip at a junction between the tapered section and the die-end section of the tip, and the method includes separating the first and second layer polymeric materials with the extended flow divider until the polymeric materials are at the polymer-receiving end of the die.